



**TENNESSEE
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS**

P.O. Box 41505
Nashville, TN 37204-1505
1-800-626-0987

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>

cooperating with
Tennessee Department
of Agriculture



Agri-News

**Debra K. Kenerson
Director**

nass-tn@nass.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 10, 2004

Assets Top \$6 Billion on Tennessee Equine Operations

The 2004 Tennessee Equine Survey showed assets on equine operations totaled \$6.09 billion on January 1, 2004, up 24 percent from the previous survey conducted in 1999. The value of Tennessee's 210,000 head of equine (horses, donkeys, and mules) on January 1, 2004, was estimated at \$565 million. In addition to equine inventory, these operations had \$4.89 billion of land, fencing, facilities, and buildings and \$636 million of equipment and supplies. This comprehensive survey was a joint effort of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, which provided the funding, and USDA's Tennessee Agricultural Statistics. Debra Kenerson, Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Director, noted, "This survey confirms that the equine industry in Tennessee continues to grow and plays a significant role in the State's economy."

Results also showed income from equine sales and related agricultural activities during 2003 was \$259 million. Equine sales during 2003 were valued at \$57.5 million with 23,000 equine sold. Equine related expenditures during 2003 totaled \$597 million. Equipment, feed and bedding, capital improvements, boarding, equine purchases, and veterinarian and health expenditures accounted for the largest share (67 percent). Operations averaged \$14,566 of expenditures for the year, or \$2,844 per animal. Equine are found on 41,000 operations (or places), with the vast majority (67 percent) of operations having less than five head. Collectively, these operations were caretakers for 3.2 million acres in Tennessee.

The State's top breed was Tennessee Walkers followed by Quarter Horses, with the two combining for more than half of the State's total equine. The average value per animal was \$2,690, with Middle Tennessee equine leading the State with an average value of \$3,097. The Hunter/Jumper category had the highest value per animal, followed by Thoroughbred, Tennessee Walker, and American Saddlebred. The top five counties in terms of inventory on January 1, 2004, were Rutherford, Wilson, Williamson, Bedford, and Marshall. This survey complements recent data from the 2002 Census of Agriculture, which ranked Tennessee 2nd in the U.S. for number of equine on farms.

Equine Inventory, Total Value, Number Sold, and Value of Sales, by District, Tennessee

District	January 1, 2004 Inventory			2003 Sales		
	Head	Total Value	Average Value Per Head	Head Sold	Total Value	Average Value Per Head
		Million Dollars	Dollars		Million Dollars	Dollars
10	7,000	14.0	2,000	1,000	1.9	1,900
20	26,000	52.8	2,031	4,900	7.1	1,449
30	25,000	47.7	1,908	3,900	4.6	1,179
40	73,000	284.0	3,890	5,800	28.9	4,983
50	24,000	46.1	1,921	2,400	4.4	1,833
60	55,000	120.4	2,189	5,000	10.6	2,120
TN	210,000	565.0	2,690	23,000	57.5	2,500

For complete results of the 2004 Tennessee Equine Survey please visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>.

###

